The Central Government has also been advising the State Governments from time to time to provide adequate enforcement machinery; to establish their own State level drug testing facilities to ensure speedy analysis of drugs samples; to adopt cautious approach while approving licences for drug products which are sub-therapeutic, harmful or irrational; surveillance of suspected dealers; implementation of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) are laid under Schedule M by the licensed manufacturers; cooperation of pharmaceuticals industry by regular interaction with them; collection of survey samples under National Survey Quality Evaluation of Drug Programme (NSQED); constitution/reactivation of State Drug Advisory Committee in which various trade and industry association as well as consumer associations should find representation. State Governments are being regularly assisted by providings funds and equipment for their laboratories; and by training of their lab and regulatory staff.

Through the process of screening, manufacture and sale of 72 categories of drugs, including Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs), have so far been phased out or prohibited.

As far as quality is concerned, as per the information available from the State Licensing Authorities, out of 35570 samples tested during the period 1999-2000,3666 were reported to be of sub-standard quality.

Disposal of pending cases

†*288. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "20 Lakh Mukadme 2005 Tak Niptane Ki Yojana," which appreared in the Rashtriya Sahara, dated 31 st May, 2001 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government for quick disposal of the cases pending in different courts in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The news-item captioned "20 Lakh Mukadme 2005 Tak Niptane Ki Yojana" refers to the scheme of 1734 Fast Track Courts by the Eleventh Finance Commission upto 2005, the target of disposal of 20 lakh cases by these courts,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

filling up of vacancies of judicial officers in the District Courts and the resolution taken to implement the above scheme in the meeting of Law Secretaries and Home Secretaries.

The proposed 1734 Fast Track Courts arc expected to dispose of 14 sessions cases or 20 to 25 other criminal/civil cases per month by the year 2005 which works to about 20 lakh cases by the year, 2005. The Central Government has been periodically interacting with the State Governments and High Courts with regard to setting up the required number of Fast Track Courts and the disposal of cases by them as envisaged by the Eleventh Finance Commission.

The Central Government has also been addressing the State Governments/ UT Administrations from time to time, to fill up the vacant posts of judicial officers, including consequential vacancies due to creation of Fast Track Courts with the utmost expediency.

(c) The Government has endeavoured constantly to bring about improvements in the functioning of courts with a view to simplifying procedures and delivering cost effective and speedy justice. The Government have also been constantly reviewing the accumulation of arrears in courts. Besides increasing the judge strength from time to time, the Government has also set up/ encouraged alternative modes of disposal including conciliation, mediation and arbitration. Special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunal, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Labour Courts, Consumer Courts, etc. have been set up to expedite disposal of cases. Information Technology is being used in generation of causelists, providing information to the litigants/advocates, etc. for speedy disposal of cases. Various steps have also been taken by the courts, like grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialised benches and organising Lok Adalats at regular intervals, etc.

World Bank suggestion on Tobacco

*289. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank Economists have suggested that money saved on tobacco by banning its use altogether, if utilized on the goods, will create more jobs than those displaced;